A pleaſant Ballad of TOBIAS;

Wherein is ſhewed what wonderful things happened to him in his youth; and how he wedded a young Damſel that had ſeven Huſbands, but never enjoyed their Company, being all ſlain by an evil Spirit.

IN Niniveh old Toby dwelt,
An aged man and blind was he;
And much affliction had he felt,
Which brought him unto miſery.
He had by Anna, his true wife,
One only ſon, and eke no more,
Which was the comfort of his life,
And he by him did ſet great ſtore.
He brought him up moſt virtuouſly,
In true obedience and in awe,
And every day he did apply
To fear the Lord and keep his law.
Upon a time it came to paſs,
He called his ſon to him with ſpeed,
And thus to him theſe words did frame;
My ſon, quoth he, thou know'ſt my need.
Thou muſt unto Gabael go,
To Raguel's houſe in Media's land,
For I did lend him, long ago,
Ten Talents on his only bond.
My father dear, Tobias ſaid,
At your command ſtrait will I go;
How ſhall I get the money paid,
Seeing the man I ne'er did know.
Take then the writings here with thee,
Which are ſufficient to be ſeen;
Take then a guide to go with thee
Becauſe that way thou ne'er haſt been.
A guide Tobias ſoon had got,
An angel in the ſhape of man,
Which thing he did not know, God wot,
The Lord had ſo appointed then.
Tobias, with his bleſſed guide,
Went on his journey then with ſpeed,
Until they came to Tigris ſide;
At the fair flood they did abide.
Tobias would go waſh him there,
By reaſon of the ſummer's heat;
A mighty fiſh put him in fear,
Which leapt out of the waters deep.
Cut up the fiſh, the angel ſaid,
And keep the liver, heart, and gall;
To do the ſame be not afraid,
Great cures there ſhall be done with all.
When this was done away they went,
And coming near their journey's end,
We'll lodge to night, the angel ſaid,
With Raguel thy father's friend.
He hath a daughter fair of face,
And alſo of a virtuous life;
And when we come unto that place,
I'll ſpeak that ſhe may be thy wife.
Why Azarias, then quoth he,
(For ſo they did the Angel call)
I wiſt ſhe is no wife for me,
Swift death doth on her lovers fall.
Seven men to her have married been,
Which in her love did take delight,
When her bedchamber they had ſeen,
They have not lived half the night.
A wicked ſpirit loves her ſo,
He will not ſuffer any man,
With her into the bed to go,
But works his death do what he can
The Angel ſaid, good courage take,
For ſo it ſhall not be with thee,
For ſuch perfumes I will thee make,
The wicked ſpirit away ſhall flee.
To Raguel's houſe away they run,
Where Sarah met them, fair and bright,
And after ſalutation done,
She brought them to her father's ſight.
Great cheer there was, and down they ſat,
And all for young Tobias ſake,
And after ſweet and pleaſant chat,
Between them two a match they make.
By Moſes' law they married were,
The bride's bed-chamber prepared likewiſe;
When young Tobias came in there,
The tears fell down from Sarah's eyes.
A pan of coals he brought with him,
The fiſh's heart and liver there
Within the fire he did caſt in,
Which cauſed a ſavour every where.
And by that ſweet and pleaſant ſmell,
The wicked ſpirit was diſplac'd;
Within that room he could not dwell,
And therefore out he went in haſte.
In bed they laid this beauteous bride,
The chamber door was ſhut therefore,
Tobias lying by her ſide,
Whom they did think to ſee no more.
And therefore Raguel in the night,
For him beforehand made a grave:
And to his wife he wept and ſaid,
There are no means his life to ſave.
One of the maidens ſend, quoth he,
To ſee how all the matter ſtands,
And if ſo be that dead he be,
He ſhall be buried by my hands.
This maiden joyful news did bring,
Tobias is alive, quoth ſhe:
When Raguel heared of this thing,
He did rejoice exceedingly.
For joy he made a ſolemn feaſt,
The bridal fourteen days they kept,
There came many a friendly gueſt;
In ſorrow now no more they ſlept.
Then Azarias went ſtraitway,
And to the feaſt Gabael brought,
Rejoicing at his marriage day,
And paid the money that he ought.
But yet old Toby and his wife,
Did all the while in ſorrow dwell,
They thought their ſon had loſt his life,
And nothing could their grief expel.
His aged mother every day,
Did watch the highway ſide;
And for his welfare oft did pray,
No meat nor drink ſhe could abide.
But when the wedding ended was,
Young Toby with his lovely bride,
To Niniveh did homewards paſs,
With goods and chattels on each ſide.
Tobias and his angel bright,
Before his wife made haſte to go,
For to prepare all things aright,
His lovely bride to welcome home.
His mother watching in the way,
Full ſoon eſpied her tender ſon,
Rejoicing at that happy day,
She told her husband he was come,
Whereat old Toby tumbled out,
For he was blind and could not ſee,
Tobias with the fiſh's gall
Rubb'd both his eyes immediately.
Whereat the whiteneſs of his eyes,
Incontinent did fall off quite,
So that before he did ariſe,
He had again his perfect ſight.
Great joy there was on every ſide,
Tobias told his father all,
Who went to meet his lovely bride,
With joy and mirth which was not ſmall.

Sold by S. GAMIDGE, at PRIOR'S HEAD, WORCESTER.